



What we're doing in Connecticut

U.S. EPA | STORMWATER OUTREACH AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



STORMWATER is a leading cause of poor water quality. Rain or melted snow runs down driveways, sidewalks and streets carrying oil, dirt and other pollutants into nearby waterways. Polluted runoff, which can cause erosion and flooding, runs into waterways and degrades plants, fish, shellfish and other wildlife. In water used for recreation, the runoff can lead to illness, and people who eat contaminated fish can also become sick. Untreated stormwater can also contaminate drinking water sources.

INTRO:

Connecticut issues permits for discharging pollution into bodies of water. Modeled after the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), the state program requires permits for stormwater discharges from industrial activities, construction activities where one or more acres of soil is disturbed, and 113 municipal sewer systems. Connecticut's permits go beyond federal stormwater regulation to require permits for commercial activities with five or more acres of paved area. The state permits encourage growth that avoids wetlands, maintains open space, protects the edges of sensitive water bodies and minimizes paving over green areas. The state encourages building in urban areas and areas that can handle more runoff.

TO MANAGE STORMWATER IN CONNECTICUT WE ARE:

Enforcing laws to improve waterways — The towns of Durham, Middlefield and Bethlehem were each cited for violating stormwater laws and ordered by the state Department of Environmental Protection to reduce the impact of development as part of a penalty agreement. These towns proposed programs to better manage pet waste, plant along streams and river banks, and lay porous pavement. Funding from other enforcement actions will support low impact development in 10 communities in the Farmington River watershed. These communities will review local regulations to remove barriers to low impact development and encourage responsible land use.

Restoring a community pond — Shallow water and a high concentration of nutrients left Edgewood Park Pond in New Haven in danger of becoming highly polluted. Diverting stormwater, dredging the pond, replanting the bank and restoring fish habitat led to less sedimentation, improved fish habitat, and less fecal contamination from waterfowl. As a result, pond water quality is much better and large fish have returned.*

Using manure productively — Two dairy farms in North Canaan used innovative approaches to manage manure and move nutrients off the farms and out of the water-

shed. The state and EPA supported studies to find options, which led to commercially successful side businesses producing bulk compost and planting pots made of manure. The farms also hope to produce methane for power generation and develop product lines that include bagged compost and soil planting mix.*

Restoring urban parks — Work to restore the banks of the French River in Riverside Park included adding: a rain garden that collects runoff from a small gazebo; native perennials, shrubs and trees along the bank; pet waste collecting stations; picnic benches; and a fishing access site.*

Involving the business community — Seventy private businesses in the Hockanum River watershed became "business partners" with the North Central Conservation District and agreed to use stormwater "best management practices" at their facilities.*

Limiting the volume of stormwater — The state is restricting the amount of polluted runoff that can be sent into Eagleville Brook in the town of Mansfield. Using a "total maximum daily load" limit, the state is requiring the town to reduce the amount of stormwater that goes into the brook. The project is focusing on minimizing non-porous pavement in the area.*

**These projects received EPA funds or support.*

KEY CONTACTS:

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